

You want a bulb to provide the amount of light you need, to last a long time — particularly in hard-to-reach places — and you don't want to pay too much.

Energy efficient bulbs can save money on your electric bill while saving energy, too.



Pop Quiz:

Why use energy-efficient light bulbs?

- A. They use less energy than standard bulbs.
- B. They can save you money on your electric bill.
- C. They produce just as much light as standard bulbs.
- D. They last longer and don't have to be replaced as often as standard bulbs.
- E. All of the above.

Answer: E. All of the above.

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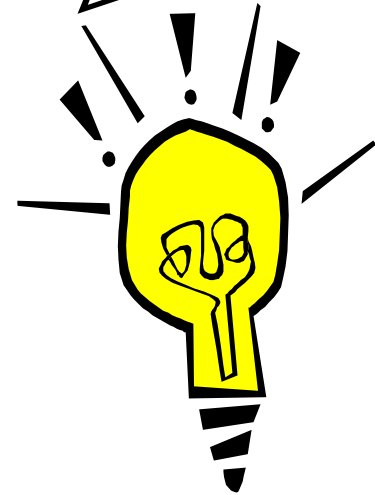


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Be energy smart



Shedding
light on light
bulb choices

► Energy Efficient
Light Bulbs: A
Bright Idea

Public Utilities Commission

► Regular incandescent bulbs

These are the most used bulbs, used in products from nightlights to floodlights. The most common incandescent is a pear-shaped bulb with a medium-sized screw-type base. Incandescent bulbs use electricity to heat a filament until it glows white hot, producing light. About 90 percent of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs is lost as heat. These bulbs typically burn for 750 to 1,000 hours - - or about three hours a day for a year.



Spotlights and floodlights

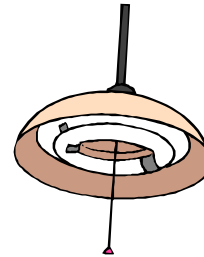
The reflective coating on these incandescent bulbs helps direct and focus the light. They are frequently used in recessed ceiling fixtures or outdoors. They burn for about 2,000 hours.

Halogen bulbs

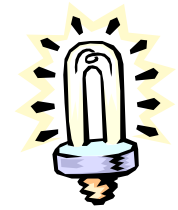
Sometimes referred to as tungsten-halogen bulbs, these bulbs contain a small capsule filled with halogen gas, which emits a bright white light. Halogen bulbs produce more light, use less energy and last longer than standard incandescent bulbs of the same wattage, but they cost more. They last from 2,000 to 3,000 hours - - about two to three years.

General service fluorescent bulbs

These bulbs are more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs because they don't produce heat. They're thin, long tubes often used in kitchens for under-cabinet lighting, and in garages, workshops and basements. The tubes last from 10,000 to 20,000 hours - - 10 to 20 times longer than incandescent bulbs.



Compact fluorescent bulbs



These bulbs provide as much light as regular incandescent bulbs while using just $\frac{1}{4}$ the energy. For example, a 15-watt compact fluorescent bulb yields the same amount of light as a 60-watt incandescent bulb. Compact fluorescent bulbs last about 10,000 hours - - 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. These bulbs cost more initially but pay for themselves in the long run.

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